

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested in view of the above amendment and the discussion below.

The present invention as defined in each of independent claims 1, 10 and 26, is an electrical control unit for an automobile where a wake-up signal is inputted into a power supply circuit. This power supply circuit supplies power to the microcomputer and subsequently the power supply circuit outputs the signal to activate the microcomputer. Therefore the wake-up signal is inputted into the power supply circuit which supplies power to the microcomputer and not directly into the microcomputer.

With the present invention it is practical to virtually switch off the power source to the microcomputer when the computer is in a resting state. As a result, dark current during the resting state is reduced to a value or a rate which is lower than the prior art. In the conventional prior art, a part of the function of the microcomputer is kept active so that the wake-up signal from outside is received even when it is in the rest state. Once again, it is noted that the present invention uses the output of the power supply to power the microcomputer and so that the wake-up signal is not directly feed into the microcomputer.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Arnold (US005239520) while claim 17 is rejected as unpatentable over Arnold under 35 USC 103. Additionally, claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Arnold and Salberg (US20010025889). Claims 8-13, 16 and 18 have been indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112 and with respect to claims 8 and 9, placed into independent form.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons indicated at pages 2 and 3 of the patent Office Action. In response to this 35 USC 112 rejections, applicants have amended the claims in a manner to provide a proper antecedent basis for each of the items listed in the office action to thereby overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112.

With respect to the rejection of the claims with 35 USC 102, applicants submit that the reference to Arnold '520 uses circuitry wherein a starting signal from a key is inputted through the bus line 16 to the input port INT on the microcomputer by way of the path 29-28-D1-26-23. Thus, there is no showing of the claimed invention defined by each of independent claims 1 and newly added claim 26 concerning "the starting signal is inputted into the power supply circuit".

Arnold has a starting signal directly connected to the microcomputer which is, as a result, required to always be ready to receive the starting signal

even when it is in the sleep mode. Thus, not all of the functions may be turned off. That is, at least the receiving function and the communication function should not be turned off. It is to be noted that the reference to Arnold has the same features discussed in the background of the invention with respect to conventional techniques. Neither the conventional techniques discussed in the background of the invention nor the reference to Arnold are able to realize enhanced decrease of the dark current in the resting state as defined by independent claims 1 and 26 as well as previously allowed claim 10.

The secondary reference to Salberg, '889, even accepting the statement of the Examiner for its showing, adds nothing towards meeting the claim limitation of independent amended claim 1 from which claim 3 depends and contains all the limitations thereof.

The present invention has been amended to more clearly emphasize within each of the independent claims that the power supply circuit is configured to receive a wake-up signal from the outside and to resume or start the power supply to the microcomputer and that the microcomputer is awakened by the power which is supplied from the power supply circuit. This is the feature which allows the present invention to improve upon the type of prior art disclosed in Arnold and in the background of the invention.

Therefore in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the references which features are not shown or disclosed or made

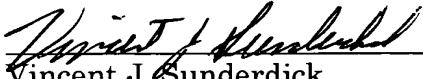
obvious by the references or their combination and in view of the changes to the claim structure to obviate the rejections under 35 USC 112 as well as the addition of newly added claims including independent claim 26 which also recite the feature which defines over the art of record, applicants respectfully requests that this application be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.53080US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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